

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 IO-03 PC-04 AGR-03 INT-01 EB-05

IGA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 SWF-02 SPM-01 INR-11

USIA-12 DRC-01 RSC-01 SR-02 ORM-01 SCI-01 /115 W

----- 121847

R 130900Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2442

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 918

AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELIEF CAMPS AND AT-RISK
POPULATIONS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 871 AND 869, STATE 139808

SUMMARY: IN ORDER PROVIDE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS REQUESTED
STATE REFTEL, MISSION (WHICH PRESENTLY STAFFED BY FIVE OFFICERS)
WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, PREFERABLY ON CONTRACT
BASIS. SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO RECRUITMENT EX-PCV,
FLUENT IN FRENCH FOR PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT. CONTRACT
FUNDING WOULD NECESSARILY PROVIDE NOUAKCHOTT HOUSING, VEHICLE
AND DEFRAY CHARTER AIR COSTS WHERE NECESSARY.

1. NOUAKCHOTT 871 INDICATED AT RISK POPULATION SETTING IN
MAURITANIA AND VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY IDENTIFYING REFUGEES
IN POPULATION WHICH ABOUT 70 PERCENT NOMADIC AND WHERE NO
REFUGEE CAMPS PER SE EXIST. SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATED
BY DROUGHT-DISRUPTED NOMADIC TRANSHUMANCE PATTERNS, GOVERNMENT
ENCOURAGEMENT URBAN MIGRATION TO FACILITATE RELIEF EFFORTS,
LACK STATISTICAL BASE, INADEQUATE TRANSPORT SYSTEM, THINLY-
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STAFFED PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND VIRTUAL ABSENCE BASIC

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OUTSIDE HANDFUL MAJOR TOWNS.

2. MOST CRITICAL AREAS (FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD REGIONS) AND THEIR FOOD NEEDS REPORTED NOUAKCHOTT 869. THESE THREE REGIONS PROGRESSIVELY INACCESSABLE DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER RAINY SEASON. UNPREPARED TRACKS--WHICH ARE LITTLE MORE THAN ROUGH TRACES--DETERIORATE OR ARE CUT BY RAIN-SWOLLEN STREAMS SO THAT EVEN IN DROUGHT YEARS ALL TRAFFIC TO AND FROM REGIONS ONE, TWO AND THREE ALL BUT CEASES DURING RAINS, RECOMMENCING ONLY IN LATE OCTOBER. THIS IS NOT TO SAY OTHER REGIONS NOT IN NEED, BUT ONLY THAT THEY RELATIVELY BETTER OFF DUE PROXIMITY MAIN POINTS RELIEF SUPPLY AGGREGATION AND DISTRIBUTION (ROSSO-NOUAKCHOTT) AND ARE ACCESSABLE ALL YEAR ROUND.

3. WOULD RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT DATA COLLECTION EFFORT BE CONCENTRATED IN ISOLATED FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD REGIONS, WITH SECONDARY EFFORT AS TIME PERMITS IN SOUTHERN REACHES SIXTH (ROSSO) AND FIFTH (ALEG) REGIONS, WHICH ALSO BADLY SCARED BY DROUGHT, BUT WHICH ARE VASTLY MORE ACCESSABLE AND POSSESS BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE.

4. TO GATHER INFORMATION REQUESTED STATE REFTEL, WHICH WE ALL AGREE WOULD BE INVALUABLE TO USG, GIRM AND OTHER DONORS, WE WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. MISSION UNABLE CARRY THIS ADDED LOAD WITH PRESENT MINIMUM STAFFING (FIVE OFFICERS). GIRM BUREAUCRACY IS EQUALY UNDERSTAFFED ACROSS THE BOARD AND OTHER DONORS APPEAR UNWILLING OR UNABLE PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE DO, HOWEVER, HAVE AVAILABLE ONE BILINGUAL PCV ASSIGNED WFP GATHER FOOD DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION ALONG LINES SUGGESTED R&R CRITERIA RESTATEMENT. HE COULD BE USED HELP ASSESS REQUIREMENTS OF AT-RISK POPULATIONS. NONETHELESS, EXTRAORDINARY HARSH ENVIRONMENT COUPLED WITH SEVERE LOGISTIC PROBLEMS, LACK VOLAG AND OTHER DONOR ACTION AND BREADTH INFORMATION REQUIRED INDICATE NEED FOR AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON SUPPORTED ENTIRELY BY AID.

5. SUGGEST AID CONSIDER PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH FRENCH-SPEAKING EX-PCV FOR EXPRESS PURPOSE WORKING (AS PART TWO-MAN TEAM) WITH PCV CURRENTLY ASSIGNED COVER FOOD DISTRIBUTION. EX-PCV WOULD CONCENTRATE ON MEDICAL AND POPULATION ASPECTS REQUIRED REPORTING, PARTICULARLY IN FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD UNCLASSIFIED

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REGIONS. CURRENTLY ASSIGNED PCV WOULD CONTINUE COVER FOOD DISTRIBUTION. PERSON REQUIRED WOULD IDEALLY HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN PARA-MEDICAL FIELD OR NUTRITION AND COULD, THEREFORE, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UTILIZATION BLENDED FOODS, DEVELOP SOME NOTION NEW POPULATION MOVEMENTS, PROVIDE BETTER EARLY WARNING FOR EPIDEMICS AND ATTEMPT VALIDATE DATA SUPPLIED BY GIRM OFFICIALS. AID WOULD UNDERTAKE AS PART PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACT SUPPLY VEHICLE, HOUSING AND AIR TRANSPORT WHEN NECESSARY

PARTICULARLY DURING UP-COMING SEASON OF NORMALLY HEAVY RAINS.
FYI: SOME LOGISTIC SUPPORT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR PCV, FOR WHOM
UNDP/WFP HAS NO FUNDS.

6. THIS ARRANGEMENT ALONG WITH ANY AID DIRECT HIRE STAFF
PLANNED FOR FUTURE WILL BEGIN TO PROVIDE RUDIMENTARY BUT VITAL
INFORMATION ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND AT-RISK POPULATION
REQUIREMENTS.

7. AID/W PLEASE ADVISE REACTION, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOVE
SUGGESTIONS. SHURTLIFF

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